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20 October 1944

## MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL BISSELL (FOR THE RECORD):

1. I discussed naval participation in document translation with Captain Heard in Admiral Schuirmann's Office. Here are the essentials:

a. A naval party consisting of Captain Heard, Commander Hindmarsch and Colonel Bales(?) USMC, visited Ritchie Thursday, 19 Oct. According to Colonel Gronich they were somewhat critical of the ability of the Pacific MIRS personnel as compared to their naval personnel.

b. Admiral Schuirmann is sending you a letter covering the following points:

(1) The Navy will implement its part of the Ad Hoc Agreement by sending to Ritchie eight officers who are graduates of Boulder and are reportedly well versed in the Japanese language. These officers will arrive at the conclusion of an indoctrination period, probably within the next two or three weeks. They will be in charge of one of their own group for naval administrative purposes but Captain Heard stated definitely that the Navy would tie no strings to their integration into the working group excepting as shown in subparagraph (2) below.

(2) In principle the Navy is definitely averse to contributing personnel to Ritchie for other than the commitments contained in the Ad Hoc Committee agreement. However, in order to cooperate with us they have no objection to our using any part or all of the eight officers for work other than that referred to in the Ad Hoc Committee report if there is no Ad Hoc ~~work~~ Committee type of work available. Captain Heard elaborated on this point by saying that while in principle they wanted these officers to stick to the Ad Hoc ~~Committee~~ work, the Navy would interpose no objection if they were used on ground document work. He made the specific statement that he considered it was improper for the Navy to specify in detail what work these officers were to do as it would be if the case were reversed and the Army was sending officers to assist the Navy.

(3) The Navy, without saying so, definitely are apprehensive concerning the supervision of the research activities at Ritchie by an officer (Lt.Col. Gronich) who is not qualified in the Japanese language.

(4) The plan for document research, outlined to them at Ritchie by Lt. Col. Gronich, is acceptable to the Navy as being theoretically sound, but Captain Heard implied that the work to be done at Ritchie is full of difficulties which we may not yet realize.

(5) Captain Heard was outspoken in his belief that the Navy had much better personnel than the Army for the work intended.

(6) Captain Heard stated quite positively that the Navy did not intend to break up its translation section in Washington because it was working well and there were many advantages connected with the close proximity of the various elements engaged in the translation work.

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(7) Captain Heard was evidently apprehensive about possible interference of the flow from the theaters to the Navy Department of naval documents or documents of primary interest to the Navy. He expressed some concern for the fact that Army authorities had ordered these documents in from the theaters and implied that friction might develop if the Army tried to send some of these documents back before the Navy had a chance to process them thoroughly.

2. After allowing Captain Heard to put forth all of the above points, I pointed out that we realized that there were difficulties, but that the essential thing was to get started and settle the difficulties as we went along. He agreed and then stated that the Navy would give us the eight officers. I assured him that nothing which affected the Navy would be done without thorough coordination with the Navy beforehand, and this apparently reassured him on the point. I explained to Captain Heard that the Army directive referred exclusively to documents which had served their purpose in the theaters and, which in addition, were under the jurisdiction of Army authorities. While he agreed that in principle this was a sound procedure, I think he is still from Missouri.

3. The meeting was cordial and progressed from a somewhat skeptical attitude on the part of Captain Heard to an attitude of hearty cooperation but with strict adherence to the general principles of the agreement which would be expressed in Admiral Schuirmann's letter to you. Captain Heard did say, however, that the Navy desired to "feel its way along" and greater participation would be decided on the results of this initial effort.

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